

I thought we needed to proceed to have some debate and hopefully even a vote with regard to the matter of the pardon of the Puerto Rican terrorists.

So I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution deploring the actions of President Clinton with respect to clemency for FALN terrorists, and there be 2 hours for debate to be equally divided between the two leaders. I further ask consent that no amendments be in order to the resolution and that following the use or yielding back of the debate time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Reserving the right to object, let me say this resolution was introduced last night. It was only put on the calendar today. To my knowledge, very few, if any, people have had the opportunity to read the resolution, much less give much consideration to it. So I ask unanimous consent the majority leader's consent request be modified to conform with the regular order of the Senate and provide for amendments and no limit on debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I think the Senator's point is well taken, that this has come up quickly. But there is a reason for that. This whole issue came out during the August recess period when Senators were back in their respective States. I think everybody was stunned and shocked and somewhat in disbelief that these 12 or so terrorists—I believe it was 16 total—were going to be offered this clemency and this pardon.

We just returned to the Senate for business on Wednesday of this week. There was no earlier opportunity to introduce this resolution, and I understand clemency takes effect tomorrow, on Friday. That is why it has been handled in this way.

Having said that, I inquire of Senator DASCHLE, with those amendments, any amendment that would be offered, would they be relevant to this subject, to the question of the clemency of these terrorists, or would it be his request that any amendment would be in order affecting any subject?

Mr. DASCHLE. If I can respond to the distinguished majority leader, first, let me say that nothing, as I understand it, in this resolution—again, I have only had a cursory opportunity to look at it—would do anything with regard to the President's actions. The President is going to be able to act with or without this resolution. So the timing of the resolution has no real bearing on the President's decision.

We can adopt or reject the amendment and the resolution at any time.

That is, I think, what the majority leader's intent would be, to put the Senate on record with regard to the action, not prevent the President from doing so because this resolution does not prevent him; it simply comments on what they view to be the advisability of the resolution.

But in answer to the question of the majority leader, let me say, we would want to at least give our colleagues the right to offer amendments. I am not in a position at this moment to come to agreement with regard to what the amendments might or might not be. I simply am asking that in the context of legislation and the Senate rules the regular order be followed. The regular order is that Senators can offer amendments. It does not say the regular order requires germaneness or relevancy. The regular order is Senators have a right to offer amendments.

I simply ask in my unanimous consent request that the regular order under Senate rules be allowed in this case as one would expect they would be followed traditionally.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, first of all, I say to Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader, and other Senators on both sides of the aisle, since I believe there apparently will be objection, and there will probably be a vote on this at some point, we will be glad to work on both sides.

I know there is a feeling of outrage in the country and on both sides of the political aisle about this happening. We are going to express ourselves either before or after the clemency actually takes place. I extend that invitation to work with us to see if we can develop language that can have the type of broad support that I believe there is in this country on the whole against this action. In view of the request, I have to object to that addition to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair notes that the unanimous consent request by the minority leader is not in order. We first must dispose of the unanimous consent request of the majority leader before we can entertain an additional unanimous consent request.

Mr. LOTT. I believe under that circumstance then it goes back to the question of whether or not there is objection to my original request.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as I understand it, the majority leader objects to my modification.

Mr. LOTT. Right.

Mr. DASCHLE. As a result of that, I object to the proposal as presented.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in light of the objection, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning

business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this joint resolution will be eligible for Senate consideration on Friday. I will ask consent to proceed to the joint resolution on Friday, and if an objection is heard, I will move to proceed and file a cloture motion, and that cloture vote will occur at 5 p.m. on Monday. I urge my colleagues to join us in trying to work out language that can be acceptable to Senators on both sides who feel strongly about this.

Also, I notify Senators there will be no further recorded votes today or this week, but there will be stacked votes, probably three or four, at 5 o'clock on Monday next. I have notified Senator DASCHLE of that intent. I ask Senators to be sure to be here. We will not have recorded votes tomorrow. We will probably do some business, but it will not involve votes. The next votes will occur at 5 p.m. on Monday, and all Senators will be expected to be present and accounted for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CONDEMNING GRANTING OF CLEMENCY TO CONVICTED TERRORISTS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I begin by thanking the majority leader for offering the resolution condemning the President's action in granting this clemency to convicted terrorists. What I want to do is begin by reminding people about the activities conducted by the organization to which these 16 terrorists belong. I then will remind people that we are about to see history repeat itself because a President has pardoned and given clemency to Puerto Rican nationalist terrorists before. Then I will make some basic observations about how outrageous I believe the President's action is.

First, I remind my colleagues that on November 1, 1950, two terrorists who were, or at least claimed to be, promoting independence for Puerto Rico attempted to shoot and kill President Truman. One of the gunmen was killed and the other was sentenced to death but President Truman subsequently commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. On March 1, 1954, three such terrorists opened fire from the gallery of the United States' House of Representatives—in fact, there is a bullet hole in the ceiling of the gallery of the House of Representatives to this day and to this day, a bullet hole remains in the desk of the Republican leader on the House floor. Several Congressmen